



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Lauds Recommendations Made by Elections Assistance Commission Chairman Buster Soaries

SACRAMENTO, CA – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today praised the Chairman of the federal Elections Assistance Commission (EAC), DeForest “Buster” Soaries, for his recommendations on electronic voting security strategies for the November 2004 Presidential Election.

“As the country modernizes the way in which we select our government, the leadership of Buster Soaries is a welcome breath of fresh air. I am impressed by his level of commitment to the security of voting systems and the confidence of voters,” said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

In his remarks, which were given on June 8 to Maryland election officials, Soaries recommended that the EAC adopt the following strategy to ensure the security and accuracy of the vote for the November Presidential Election:

1. All voting software vendors should allow election officials with whom they have contracted to analyze the proprietary source codes of their software;
2. Every election jurisdiction that uses electronic voting devices should identify and implement enhanced security measures in November, including providing a paper verification, voice verification, cryptography, parallel monitoring, chain of custody, testing practices, and intergovernmental agreements for enhanced management. The EAC would offer best practices and guidance on how to implement these strategies;
3. Every voting software vendor should be invited to submit their certified software to the National Software Reference Library (NSRL) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to facilitate tracking of software used by different jurisdictions;
4. The EAC should solicit information about suspicious electronic voting system activity and should request aggressive responses from the U.S. Department of Justice.
5. The EAC should document incidents and record data concerning electronic voting equipment malfunctions in November. This information could then be submitted to the EAC Technical Guidelines Development Committee that will be creating the new voluntary voting systems standards.

“If the EAC should implement Chairman Soaries’ recommendations, I am confident that we can continue to make progress in providing the country with safe, reliable, and accessible voting technology,” said Shelley.

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